area in Gujarat, which includes fencing of the international Border, deployment of floating Border Outposts in the creek areas, gearing up the intelligence machinery, close interaction between different agencies of the Centre and the State Government, modernization and upgradation of Police and Security Forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system, etc. Also, there are standing instructions to the State Government to detect and deport illegal migrants from the country.

Handling of cases involved in Drugs and Narcotics

4880. SHRISURESH KALMADI:

SHRISANTOSH B AGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) apart from the Police which other agency handles cases involved in Drugs and Narcotics professionally on larger scale;

(b) whether the same agency also handles smuggling of Drugs and Narcotics through water channels; and

(c) if so, the level of involvement of the Coast Guard in cases of smug gling through water channels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Customs, Central Excise, Revenue Intelligence, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, have been empowered by the Central Government under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) to handle cases involving Drugs and Narcotics.

The Act also provides for the State Governments to empower various officers of Revenue, Drug Control, Excise, Police or any other department of the State Government for the purpose.

Under the Customs Act, 1962, certain officers of the State Governments and paramilitary organizations (*/. e.,* CRPF in the State of Tripura, BSF, ITBP) and that of Coast Guard have been designated as officers of Customs and therefore, are empowered under the NDPS Act for interdiction of narcotic drugs being smuggled.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Coast Guard units are actively deployed for ami-smuggling operations based on intelligence inputs from Narcotics Control Bureau/Department of Revenue Intelligence/Customs. These units are tasked for anti-smuggling patrol in Maritime zones outside baseline, inside creeks and channels and upto con tiguous zone.